

Appl. No. 10/037,829

Reply to Office action of October 13, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A vision enhancement system for use on a vehicle, the vehicle having an exterior body portion, comprising:

a camera mounted to the vehicle behind the exterior body portion;

a door moveably mounted in the body portion, said door positioned in said camera's line of sight and capable of being moved between a closed position and an open position; and

an actuator for selectively positioning said door in one of said open and closed positions begin; and

a controller coupled to said camera and to said actuator for opening said door and activating said camera when exterior ambient light falls below a predetermined threshold.

2. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 1 wherein said body portion includes a grill.

3. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 2 wherein said door has a decorative exterior.

4. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 3 wherein said camera is a night vision camera.

5. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 3 wherein said door is pivotally coupled to said grill.

6. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 5 further comprising a spring coupled to said door and to said grill for biasing said door in a normally closed position.

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7. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 6 wherein said actuator comprises:

a motor; and

a cable coupled to said motor and to said door for opening said door when said motor is energized.

8. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 7 further comprising a switch for energizing said motor.

9. (currently amended) A vision enhancement system according to claim 7 ~~further comprising were in said controller comprises~~ a light detector ~~for energizing said motor when exterior ambient light falls below a predetermined threshold.~~

10. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 7 further comprising a control unit for energizing said motor when said vehicle is turned on.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 7 further comprising a display for displaying an image taken by said camera.

13. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 4 further comprising a display for displaying a thermal image taken by said night vision camera.

14. (original) A vision enhancement system according to claim 2 further comprising a decorative emblem coupled to an exterior of said door.

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15. (currently amended) A night vision enhancement system for use on a vehicle, the vehicle having a front grill, said system comprising:

a night vision camera mounted behind the grill and having a forwardly directed line of sight;

a door having a decorative exterior pivotally coupled to said grill in said camera's line of sight and capable of being moved between an open position and a closed position;

a motor coupled to said door for selectively positioning said door in one of said open and closed positions; and

a controller coupled to said motor and to said camera for energizing said motor and activating said camera when exterior ambient light falls below a predetermined threshold.

16. (original) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 15 further comprising a spring coupled to said door and to said grill for biasing said door in a normally closed position.

17. (original) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 16 further comprising a cable coupled between said door and said motor.

18. (original) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 17 wherein said controller comprises a manual switch.

19. (currently amended) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 17 wherein said controller comprises a light detector ~~for energizing said motor when exterior ambient light falls below a predetermined threshold.~~

20. (original) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 17 wherein said motor controller is coupled to an ignition system of the vehicle for opening said door when the ignition system is turned on.

21. (original) A night vision enhancement system according to claim 16 further comprising a display for displaying an image received by said camera.